

One member active in the crop insurance industry.

One member with reinsurance expertise.

The Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, the Undersecretary for Rural Development, and the USDA Chief Economist.

Make the FCIC the overseer of RMA.

Create an Office of Private Sector Partnership to serve as a liaison between private sector companies and the FCIC Board of Directors.

Allow companies to charge minimal fees to other companies selling their products, in order to allow the recovery of research and development costs.

Mr. President, our legislation also focuses on several areas that I want to place special emphasis on because they are areas that I know are of interest to many of my colleagues and which some often think those of us in the Midwest and Plains States tend to ignore.

The first deals with program compliance. We have heard complaints from some of our colleagues and specific commodity groups that fraud exists in several areas of the country. Let me make clear, Senator KERREY and I oppose any attempts to defraud the crop insurance program.

To prevent this fraud, the legislation calls for penalties of up to \$10,000 for producers, agents, loss adjusters, and approved insurance providers that attempt to defraud the program. It also allows for USDA to remove producers from eligibility for all USDA programs if they have defrauded the program. Furthermore, agents, loss adjusters, and approved companies that do business in the program could be banned from participation for up to five years if they have committed fraud.

Mr. President, these provisions are strong and they are clear—those who attempt to defraud the program and taxpayers will be punished.

Mr. President, another concern that Senator KERREY and I have heard repeatedly is the lack of emphasis and prioritization for specialty crops and development of new crop insurance and risk management tools for these crops. We have included many provisions in our legislation to address these concerns.

These specialty crop provisions include:

Changes in the Noninsured Assistance Program that we believe will make it easier to obtain assistance and funding through changes in which commodities can be covered and by allowing payments in some instances regardless of an area trigger occurring.

Several pilot projects geared specifically towards looking at the feasibility of Gross Revenue and Whole Farm Revenue policies that include coverage for specialty crops.

Requiring the newly created Office of Private Sector Partnership to include staff with specialty crop expertise.

Allow RMA to spend up to \$20 million per year to create partnerships with Land Grant Universities, the Agricul-

tural Research Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other qualified entities to develop and implement new specialty crop risk management options.

Requires 50 percent of RMA's research and development funds to go to specialty crop products development. Additionally, 50 percent of these R&D funds must be contracted out to organizations and entities outside RMA.

Reaffirms the authority of the Specialty Crops Coordinator in RMA. The bill also allows the Specialty Crops Coordinator to make competitive grants for research and development of new products in the specialty crops area.

Contains provisions regarding sales closing dates and the issuance of new policies.

Orders the Specialty Crops coordinator and the FCIC to study the feasibility of offering cost-of production, Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), quality-based policies, and an intermediate coverage level (higher than current CAT coverage) for specialty crops.

Requires the Board to annually review and certify that specialty crops are adequately covered. If insufficient coverage is available for a commodity, the Board can require RMA to undertake R&D activities.

Provides mechanisms whereby the Secretary must take steps to improve participation in the program when total participation for a crop in an individual state falls below 75 percent of the national participation average.

Mr. President, these changes for specialty crops are significant and we believe they give important attention to a group of producers that has often felt neglected in U.S. agricultural policy. I hope that our colleagues will agree and that they will join us in supporting this legislation.

Mr. President, let me also state that I realize some will argue that specific provisions should have been included in this legislation that currently are not. I understand these concerns, but as we developed this bill, we had to determine the priorities of each agricultural region and commodity groups. There is something from this bill that all of us would like to see included, including Senator KERREY and myself, but as a whole it is I believe the best package available.

I also realize that some in this body claim that crop insurance is not necessary and that we do not need to act on this legislation this year. I could not disagree more.

Mr. President, every year our producers put the seed in the ground and believe that with a little faith and luck they will produce a crop. But, sometimes the creeks do rise and the multiple perils of drought, flood, fire, hail, blizzard, pests, and disease get the better of our producers. They must have the tools to manage these risks.

The agricultural and lending communities have spoken loudly, and they all have continually expressed the need to improve the risk management tools

available to producers throughout the U.S. It is time for us to move towards action on this issue. The House Agriculture Committee approved legislation prior to the August recess. It is time for the Senate Agriculture Committee to do the same. A majority of the Committee has said as much by supporting our legislation.

Mr. President, we know there are many disagreements within members of the Senate in regards to specific agricultural policy. In fact, Senator KERREY and I have disagreements of our own on the underlying Farm Bill. However, we all agree that our producers today cannot be successful without access to new, improved, and adequate risk management tools. This legislation accomplishes these needs, and I urge my colleagues to join us in working towards an improved crop insurance program and risk management tools.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 37

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) were added as cosponsors of S. 37, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the restriction on payment for certain hospital discharges to post-acute care imposed by section 4407 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

S. 345

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to remove the limitation that permits interstate movement of live birds, for the purpose of fighting, to States in which animal fighting is lawful.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. KERREY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 391, a bill to provide for payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to improve the National Writing Project.

S. 562

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 562, a bill to provide for a comprehensive, coordinated effort to combat methamphetamine abuse, and for other purposes.

S. 659

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 659, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require pension plans to provide adequate notice to individuals whose future benefit accruals

are being significantly reduced, and for other purposes.

S. 690

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 690, a bill to provide for mass transportation in national parks and related public lands.

S. 693

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to assist in the enhancement of the security of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 765

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 765, a bill to ensure the efficient allocation of telephone numbers.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to provide for the establishment and operation of asthma treatment services for children, and for other purposes.

S. 882

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 882, a bill to strengthen provisions in the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 with respect to potential climate change.

S. 1023

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1023, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize indirect graduate medical education payments.

S. 1024

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1024, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to carve out from payments to Medicare+Choice organizations amounts attributable to disproportionate share hospital payments and pay such amounts directly to those disproportionate share hospitals in which their enrollees receive care.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1025, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the proper payment of approved nursing and allied health education programs under the medicare program.

S. 1153

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

1153, a bill to establish the Office of Rural Advocacy in the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 1268

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1268, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide support for the modernization and construction of biomedical and behavioral research facilities and laboratory instrumentation.

S. 1322

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1322, a bill to prohibit health insurance and employment discrimination against individuals and their family members on the basis of predictive genetic information or genetic services.

S. 1325

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. THOMPSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1325, a bill to amend the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 to add Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Perry, and Wayne Counties, Tennessee, to the Appalachian region.

S. 1332

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Father Theodore M. Hesburg, in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to civil rights, higher education, the Catholic Church, the Nation, and the global community.

S. 1399

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1399, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that pay adjustments for nurses and certain other health-care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be made in the manner applicable to Federal employees generally and to revise the authority for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make further locality pay adjustments for those professionals.

S. 1463

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to establish a program to provide assistance for programs of credit and other financial services for microenterprises in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 1466

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1466, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide

for congressional review of rules establishing or increasing taxes.

S. 1473

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1473, a bill to amend section 2007 of the Social Security Act to provide grant funding for additional Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Strategic Planning Communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1500

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHN-SON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1500, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an additional payment for services provided to certain high-cost individuals under the prospective payment system for skilled nursing facility services, and for other purposes.

S. 1528

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1528, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to clarify liability under that Act for certain recycling transactions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 33

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 33, a joint resolution deploring the actions of President Clinton regarding granting clemency to FALN terrorists.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 53

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 53, a concurrent resolution condemning all prejudice against individuals of Asian and Pacific Island ancestry in the United States and supporting political and civic participation by such individuals throughout the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 92

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 92, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that funding for prostate cancer research should be increased substantially.

SENATE RESOLUTION 108

At the request of Mr. BREAU, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

SNOWE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 108, a resolution designating the month of March each year as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month."

SENATE RESOLUTION 133

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 133, a resolution supporting religious tolerance toward Muslims.

SENATE RESOLUTION 163

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 163, resolution to establish a special committee of the Senate to study the causes of firearms violence in America.

SENATE RESOLUTION 179

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 179, a resolution designating October 15, 1999, as "National Mammography Day."

SENATE RESOLUTION 182—DESIGNATING OCTOBER, 1999, AS "NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH"

Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 182

Whereas over 150 years ago, United States commemorative stamps began honoring the people, places, and events that have shaped our Nation's history;

Whereas in 1999, more than 22,000,000 Americans, including children, collect and learn about our Nation through stamps, making stamp collecting one of the most popular hobbies in our Nation and the world;

Whereas as we stand on the threshold of the 21st century, it is important that we pause to reflect on our Nation's history;

Whereas stamps honor statesmen and soldiers who fought for freedom and democracy, recognize our Nation's scientific and technological achievements, pay tribute to our Nation's artistic legacy, and celebrate the strength of our Nation's diversity;

Whereas starting October 1, 1999, "National Stamp Collecting Month" will transform more than 100,000 schools, libraries, and post offices into learning centers where our Nation's young people can honor the past and celebrate the future through stamps;

Whereas the founders and participants of "National Stamp Collecting Month" include

millions of adult and youth collectors, thousands of teachers and schools, the American Philatelic Society, and the United States Postal Service;

Whereas the people, places, and events shaping America today will be United States commemorative stamps tomorrow;

Whereas "National Stamp Collecting Month" will help empower our Nation's children and future generations to study and learn from our Nation's history; and

Whereas as our Nation's children learn the lessons of the past, the children will be better prepared to guide our Nation in the future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates October, 1999, as "National Stamp Collecting Month".

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

BRYAN (AND WYDEN) AMENDMENT NO. 1623

Mr. BRYAN (for himself, and Mr. WYDEN) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 1588 proposed by Mr. BRYAN to the bill (H.R. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 1, line 3, strike "\$1,216,351,000" and all that follows through "management" on page 2, line 4, and insert "\$1,225,351,000 (which shall include 50 percent of all moneys received during prior fiscal years as fees collected under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 in accordance with section 4(i) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 4601-6a(i))), to remain available until expended, of which \$33,697,000 shall be available for wildlife habitat management, \$22,132,000 shall be available for inland fish habitat management, \$24,314,000 shall be available for anadromous fish habitat management, \$28,548,000 shall be available for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat management, \$196,885,000 shall be available for timber sales management, and \$10,000,000 shall be available for survey and management requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan Record of Decision, for which the draft supplemental environmental impact statement is to be completed by November 15, 1999, and the final environmental impact statement is to be published by February 14, 2000".

On page 2, line 6, strike "\$371,795,000" and insert "\$365,795,000".

On page 2, line 11, strike "\$122,484,000" and insert "\$116,484,000".

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND REGULATION

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on past and present worker safety issues in DOE facilities at the Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Paducah, Kentucky.

The hearing will take place on Monday, September 20, 1999 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Paducah Community College Fine Arts Auditorium in Paducah, Kentucky.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Subcommittee on Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, 20510-6150.

For further information, please call Kristin Phillips, Staff Assistant, or Colleen Deegan, Counsel, at (202) 224-8115.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power.

The purpose of the hearing is to conduct oversight on the practices of the Bureau of Reclamation regarding operations and maintenance costs and contract renewals.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, September 29, 1999 at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Subcommittee on Water and Power, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, 20510-6150.

For further information, please call Kristin Phillips, Staff Assistant, or Colleen Deegan, Counsel, at (202) 224-8115.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, the Committee on the Judiciary requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Monday, September 13, 1999, beginning at 9:15 a.m. in the Ceremonial Court Room of the Federal Court Building, Philadelphia, PA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CLIFF GULLICKSON

• Mrs. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Cliff Gullickson family and a group of North-Central Montana farmers that pulled together